

## CLAIMS

1. A production line banding system comprising:
  - a support;
  - a strapping machine mounted to said support in a fixed position for dispensing a band, for retrieving said band and for tightening said band around product to be banded;
  - a guide element mounted to said support and movable between a first position where said guide element guides a dispensed band around a product and back to said strapping machine and a second position where said guide element is separated from said dispensed band;
  - and
  - a delivering mechanism mounted to said support for moving product to be banded toward a position adjacent to said strapping machine and for moving banded product away from said strapping machine.
2. The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein:
  - said guide element has a generally C-shaped configuration wherein an open side of said configuration faces said strapping machine.
3. The systems as claimed in claim 2 wherein:
  - said guide element includes a pair of spring biased jaws for forming a passageway for said band, said jaws opening when said guide element moves from said first position to said second position.
4. The system as claimed in claim 3 wherein:
  - said delivering mechanism includes two sprockets, a chain mounted to said sprockets and a plurality of cradles mounted to said chain for receiving product in a generally horizontal disposition.

5. The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein:  
said delivering mechanism includes two sprockets, a chain mounted to said sprockets and a plurality of cradles mounted to said chain for receiving product in a generally horizontal disposition.
6. The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein:  
said strapping machine dispenses said band in a generally horizontal direction and retrieves said band in a generally horizontal direction.
7. The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein:  
said strapping machine heat seals the band around said product.
8. The system as claimed in claim 4 wherein:  
said strapping machine dispenses said band in a generally horizontal direction and retrieves said band in a generally horizontal direction; and  
said strapping machine heat seals the band around said product